

town of only 300 people. He is exploring the possibility of opening a second facility soon in another town in order to hire new workers and take advantage of new international trade opportunities.

In addition to creating jobs and opportunities for South Dakota families, Randy has served on the Geddes City Council. He is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. He is also a black belt karate instructor.

In South Dakota, small business has always been big business. This week, as we celebrate Small Business Week in our State, I commend the Small Business Administration for the partnerships it is forging with South Dakota business owners. And I offer my congratulations to Randy Boyd for his hard work and his outstanding contributions to his community.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, it doesn't require one to be a rocket scientist to realize that the U.S. Constitution forbids any President's spending even a dime of Federal tax money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by Congress—both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

So when you hear a politician or an editor or a commentator declare that "Reagan ran up the Federal debt" or that "Bush ran it up," bear in mind that the Founding Fathers, two centuries before the Reagan and Bush Presidencies, made it very clear that it is the constitutional duty of Congress to control Federal spending—which they have not for the past 50 years.

The fiscal irresponsibility of Congress has created a Federal debt which stood at \$4,855,154,897,104.21 as of the close of business Wednesday, May 3. This outrageous debt—which will become the debt of our children and grandchildren—averages out to \$18,430.25 on a per capita basis.

TRIBUTE TO TRACY CROWLEY

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my staff who is leaving Washington to return to her home State of Connecticut, Tracy Crowley. Tracy came to Washington 12 years ago to work for the Small Business Committee, which at the time was chaired by Senator Lowell Weicker. I was fortunate that Tracy remained with the committee when I became chairman in 1987. In 1991 she joined my personal staff and has been a valuable member of the office for the last 4 years.

Mr. President, those of us fortunate to serve in the Senate are often blessed with loyal and dedicated staff that make us look good. However, very rarely do we show the gratitude that these staffers deserve. The hours are long, the pay, in comparison to the private sector, is not very good and the working conditions can be difficult.

There is no one on my staff that has been more dedicated or worked longer and harder than Tracy Crowley. Although she is not a native of Arkansas, she treated each and every appropriations project with great tenacity, fighting to make sure that the interests of Arkansans were preserved. There is not a fish farmer, park superintendent, forest ranger or environmentalist in the State of Arkansas that does not owe Tracy Crowley a great debt for her work on the annual Interior appropriations bills.

Twelve years is a long time for anybody to work in one place. For a congressional staff person, 12 years of service is above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. President, while I am sorry Tracy is leaving the office, I know that she will have great success in her future endeavors and I wish her the best. All of those who have worked with Tracy, and those she has so ably served in Arkansas and throughout the Nation, will miss Tracy greatly.

Mr. President, I know that you and the entire body wishes Tracy well.

OBSERVATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have just returned from a trip through the agricultural region of my State and the farmers I represent are very worried about their own future and the future of their industry. By any measure, American farmers are one of this country's success stories. They have provided their fellow citizens with a stable food supply that is both safe and affordable. In fact, Americans pay less for food than any other industrialized nation in the world. They have also produced enough food to feed the world's hungry and are one of the few sectors of our economy that has consistently registered a positive balance of trade. Their success, however, seems to get lost in the discussions here in Congress and the political rhetoric of the Nation.

I visited with farmers in Pullman, Colfax, Walla Walla, and Moses Lake and they do not feel that the rest of the country or the U.S. Congress appreciates their efforts. After reviewing the spate of proposals advanced this Congress, I am forced to agree with them. There seems to be a misconception around here that farmers are the only beneficiaries of the commodity programs. Nothing could be further from the truth. In exchange for income protection, the farmers that sign up for the program agree to accept production controls and numerous other guidelines and regulations on the operation of their farms. While these conditions were often put in place to achieve a specific public policy goal, it is important to remember that it is an additional cost to farmers and it is a cost they will not be able to recoup from the sale of their commodity.

Because wheat farmers face many difficulties in providing the rest of us with our food, it is easy to understand

why almost 90 percent of them in Washington State sign up for the program. In addition to a regulatory environment that they often consider unfavorable, they face unfair trading practices by our competitors, nontariff trade barriers, escalation costs, and a price that is too low to cover their costs of production. On top of all this, weather conditions often wreak havoc on all the producers' hard work. Every economic analysis I have seen paints a very bleak picture of the future of rural America. I believe the conditions of American agriculture justify our continued support of the commodity programs, the export promotion programs, and the conservation programs.

The gloomy conditions in farm country are not the only reason to support these programs, however, and I am here talking on the floor of the Senate because I believe all Americans are well served by these programs, not just farmers. In my State, many of the jobs in urban areas depend on the exports provided by agriculture. If we, as a nation, wish to continue to guarantee that we have a stable food supply and continued economic growth in our cities, it is in our interest to continue to adequately fund this Nation's agricultural program. I know that I will have to continue to make that point in the urban areas of my State as well as here in Congress so that there will be a greater understanding of just how critical our agricultural industries are to all of us. We need to keep these things in mind as we consider the budget, the farm bill, and other legislation that impacts farmers.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues and millions around the world in celebrating Israel's 47th year of independence. Israel's rapid economic progress and strength are testimony to the vigilance and determination of the Jewish people.

As we celebrate nearly five decades of Israeli autonomy, we call to mind the many of today, yesterday, and centuries past who share a common bond: The dedication of their lives to establish and maintain a country that every Jewish person can call home. As Israeli President Ezer Weizman recently stated, "The State of Israel achieved its position due to the fact that its people aimed for peace and fought for it, despite all difficulties." For the Jewish people, adversity has served as an incentive rather than a deterrent. According to Prime Minister Shimon Perez, "Israel will continue her quest for peace. At the same time, she will fight those who fight peace." As friends, the people of the United States salute the conviction and perseverance the Jewish people as we, on this occasion of independence, reaffirm our shared belief in Israel's sovereignty.

The tiny democracy of Israel thrives in a region historically barraged with